

February 5, 2007

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE TORRANCE TRAFFIC COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Traffic Commission convened in a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 5, 2007 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Ulrich.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Clouch, Galvin, Rische, Santome, Tsao, Ulrich,
and Chairperson Lewis.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Transportation Manager Semaan, Project Manager Sedadi,
City Engineer Bilezerian, Torrance Police Department Officer
Garver, and Torrance Police Department Officer Garver.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Santome moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Ulrich seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5a. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 4, 2006

Minutes were not available.

Commissioners and staff welcomed new Traffic Commissioner Don Clouch.

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #1

6a. VAN NESS AVENUE AND 182ND STREET – LEFT-TURN PHASING STUDY

City Engineer Bilezerian provided background and analysis on the material of record regarding the addition of left-turn phasing at the intersection of 182nd Street and Van Ness Avenue. He reported that the Left-Turn Analysis, presented to the Traffic Commission on November 6, 2006, concluded that the warrants for protected left-turn phasing were not satisfied at this intersection. He noted that at that Commission meeting

the Commission approved the recommendation to conduct a Public Hearing on February 5, 2007 to solicit input from the public regarding the request. He recommended that the Commission decide whether or not to add the intersection to the list of "Potential Intersections for Protected-Permissive Operation" in order to compete for priority with other identified intersections throughout the City.

Commissioner Ulrich stated that public hearings were important in order to present information and provide public input on why the Commission makes its decisions.

Chairperson Lewis noted that the date for this Public Hearing was clearly set and was extended at petitioner's request.

City Engineer Bilezerian provided clarification that he discussed staff's recommendation with the petitioner last week and that he expected her to be present at this meeting.

In response to Chairperson Lewis' inquiry, City Engineer Bilezerian stated that if the request was added to the list of "Potential Intersections for Protected-Permissive Operation," there was not a high probability that it would not be installed due to lack of available funding. He noted that the project was unwarranted and would not qualify for grant funding, adding that there were not a significant number of accidents at the intersection to meet the threshold to support the request.

Project Manager Sedadi stated that funds from the Development Impact Fee is becoming available and can be used for the list.

Transportation Manager Semaan noted that Development Impact Fee funding has to be used for transportation enhancements and this was more of a maintenance issue.

Responding to Commissioner Clounch's inquiry, City Engineer Bilezerian pointed out that most of the projects on the list, such as the intersection of Crenshaw Boulevard and 235th Street, are warranted.

When Commissioner Santome inquired how the non-prioritized list of intersections fits into the Citywide Traffic Study, Transportation Manager Semaan explained that the two reasons to upgrade left-turn phasing are volume and accidents. He stated that the Citywide Traffic Study is looking at the volume component and that the Level of Service at this intersection is 'A'.

In response to Commissioner Tsao's inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan stated that it would be difficult to make other physical or operational improvements at the intersection.

Torrance Police Department Officer Garver confirmed that there have been no complaints received about the intersection since the November 6, 2006 Commission meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Santome moved to concur with staff recommendation to deny the request to add the intersection of 182nd Street and Van Ness Avenue to the list of "Potential Intersections for Protected-Permissive Operation" in order to compete for priority with other identified intersections throughout the City. Commissioner Tsao seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

7. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION

No report.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS #2

8a. Staff provided information about recent bicycle and pedestrian enhancements at City Schools through the Safe Routes to School program.

8b. Commissioner Clouch distributed a February 3, 2007 e-mail from the Southeast Torrance Homeowners Association to City Council regarding a proposed traffic engineering study for the relocation of Hull Middle School.

8c. In response to Commissioner Clouch's inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan provided an update on the status of oversized vehicle permits. He stated that, effective January 1, 2007, staff began registering and issuing stickers to residents, and that the Torrance Police Department is conducting an education campaign. He noted that approximately one half of 110 signs have been installed at City perimeters.

Torrance Police Department Officer Farley stated that enforcement would begin after completion of the sign installation.

8d. Commissioner Tsao discussed safety concerns at Mullen Avenue and 214th Street and City Engineer Bilezerian offered to investigate the need for yield or stop signage.

8e. Commissioner Santome requested a status report on westbound Skypark Drive and Hawthorne Boulevard.

Transportation Manager Semaan stated that engineers are moving forward in design to implement changes as part of the Condition of Approval. He explained that removing the center divider was not a viable option because Cal Trans could easily restripe the middle lane.

8f. Commissioner Santome expressed concern that approximately one-fourth of the time there would be safety and line-of-sight issues under the oversized vehicle ordinance.

8g. Commissioner Rische suggested that information regarding the oversize vehicle ordinance be sent to homeowners associations.

8h. Commissioner Rische requested the status of the General Plan and Strategic Plan updates. Transportation Manager Semaan advised that the scheduling and components of the Strategic Plan would be considered by City Council on February 6, 2007. He stated that several elements of the General Plan update were being repackaged and that Commissions would be able to provide input and feedback before presentation of the draft General Plan.

8i. In response to Chairperson Lewis' inquiry, Transportation Manager Semaan stated that Building and Safety should be contacted regarding incorrect posting of handicapped parking on private property.

9. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:40 p.m., Chairperson Lewis adjourned the meeting to March 5, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.

Approved as Submitted March 5, 2007 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
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